

REMARKS

Claims 37-45, 48-50, 52-62, 65-67 and 69-72 are pending in this application.

Claims 37 and 56 are independent claims.

By this Amendment, claim 37 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 46 and 47. Claim 56 is similarly amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 63 and 64. Claims 37 and 56 are also amended to recite additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, Fig. 13 and page 21, lines 2-31. Claims 46, 47, 63 and 64 are canceled. Claims 56-62, 65-67 and 69-72 are amended to recite "non-transitory." No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 37-41, 43-47, 55-60, 62-64 and 72 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0023627 to Kerr in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0144055 to Nitta and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0179928 to Kasuma; and rejects claims 42, 48-50, 52-54, 61, 65-67 and 69-71 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kerr, Nitta and Kasuma and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,956,737 to King. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 37 is amended to recite additional features as outlined above. Amended claim 37 recites "an operation mode display controlling system for displaying a screen image, indicating a change in a text display status at a point when the editing operation is executed, depending on the operation mode set by the operation mode setting system" and "wherein the operation mode display controlling system displays names of the operation modes for selection by a user; the operation mode setting system sets the operation mode according to the selection among the operation modes; and the screen image includes an example, the example being one of a plurality of examples each illustrating a result of a corresponding one of the operation modes, the example indicating the text display status

before and after the editing operation by displaying images corresponding to the frame depending on the operation mode set by the operation mode setting system." Claim 56 is amended to recite similar features. The applied references do not disclose or render obvious the subject matter recited in claims 37 and 56, as amended.

The Office Action asserts that the features of claims 46 and 47 are disclosed in Fig. 2 of Kerr. In Fig. 2 of Kerr, the text fill boxes 193 on the left hand side are text fill boxes for actually inputting texts to be printed. On the right hand side on Fig. 2, the image of the digital document 196, which is actually to be printed, is shown.

Kerr does not disclose the above-quoted features recited in claim 37, as amended. For example, Kerr does not disclose the "an example" and "selection" features recited in amended claim 37. The Office Action has not established that Kerr discloses these added features. In fact, Kerr, especially the portions discussed above, does not disclose the features added to claim 37.

The added features are supported and described in the specification of the present application.

In the present application, the screen image 31 of the graphical user interface screen 30 shown in Fig. 13 is merely an example of a screen image, the example being one of a plurality of examples each illustrating a result of a corresponding one of the operation modes. The screen image 31 is not displaying an actual fill box or an image of a document which is actually to be printed.

Further, the graphical user interface screen 30 shown in Fig. 13 displays the names of the following operation modes along with the radio buttons to select an operation mode:

1. "fixed frame size (frame configuration fixed operation mode)"
2. "long passage (frame height variable operation mode)"
3. "automatic length (frame width variable operation mode)"

4. "free size (two-direction variable operation mode)"

Furthermore, the graphical user interface screen 30 displays an "OK" button. The operation mode is set to the selected operation mode when the "OK" button is clicked (cf., Fig. 22, S1105: YES —> S1107).

With the configuration recited in claim 37, the names of operation modes which can be set are displayed on the graphical user interface screen, while displaying an example of a screen image indicating a change in a text display status before and after the editing operation. Therefore, when a user is setting an operation mode, the user can recognize a change in a text display status or a change in a frame shape at a point when the editing operation is executed, precisely and immediately, by looking at the example of the screen image. In this manner, it is possible to avoid such a redundant work that the user noticed that the operational mode which has been set is not the desired operational mode and the user has to reset the operational mode, after the operational mode has been set and the user started the editing operation. Thus, the configuration recited in claim 37 improves efficiency in text editing.

Nitta, Kasuma and King do not cure the deficiencies of Kerr. Thus, claim 37 is patentable over the applied references. Claim 56 is also patentable over the applied references because claim 56 recites similar patentable features. Also, the dependent claims are patentable at least in view of the patentability of claims 37 and 56, from which they depend, as well as for additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 37-45, 48-50, 52-62, 65-67 and 69-72 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: August 4, 2010

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